

United Way **MAKES A DIFFERENCE** in our community!

United Way of Central Massachusetts touches the lives of more than 66,000 people every year.

Daishaneise is one of those people.

United Way Makes a Difference in Our Community!



Daishaneise's Story



CONNECTING PEOPLE AND RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY

DAISHANIESE'S STORY



14-year old Daishaneise comes from a single parent home. Her father was, in her words, “not the best father.” Adding to that stress, she was being bullied at school and did not have anywhere to go where she felt safe. The *Dear World Program at Girls Inc.* has given her that safe place; a place that helps her develop the tools she needs to deal with bullies at school; a place that has taught her how to have healthy relationships. The *Dear World Program* is an example of a program that is supported through donations to the Women’s Initiative of the United Way of Central Massachusetts.

Through the *Dear World Program*, Daishaneise has learned that the bully is not the bigger person and she had learned to “brush off” anyone who tried to bully her. Daishaneise learned to use her voice confidently; she learned that “No” is just as easy to say as “Yes” and now believes in the power of having a “No” boundary. When she says “NO!,” she means it! Daishaneise has also learned that she has a lot to say and that what she has to say is not only important, but that the world wants to hear it.

Daishaneise has learned to celebrate being her own person—with her own way of expressing herself. She now believes that, even though she is one of many people, she does not need to be like everyone else. She realizes that a woman’s journey is not an easy one and that she must be able to stand up for herself and stand out from the crowd.

When asked why she felt it was important to make sure that United Way and the Women’s Initiative fund programs like *Dear World*, Daishaneise said, “There are girls getting into trouble and there are girls out there who don’t feel safe. This is a place for them to find a safety place. I found one here and so we need this program so someone else can find one too. “

All girls, all people, deserve a place where they can feel safe. Through the efforts of United Way and the dozens of programs supported by your donations, Daishaneise is able to deal with her problems and no longer keeps everything bottled up inside. Daishaneise finally has somewhere that she can find peace.

ABOUT THE DEAR WORLD PROGRAM: *Funding for Girls Inc.’s Dear World Program is made possible by your donations to Women’s Initiative of United Way of Central Massachusetts. Dear World is a unique Expressive Arts program where girls can explore a variety of arts modalities. Girls use dance, theatre, voice, visual arts, and graphic arts as a platform to "let their voices" be heard and to educate their peers, younger girls, and the greater community on what it's like to be a girl growing up in today's world. They focus on issues including peer pressure, bullying, body image, healthy relationships, and personal values.*

To view Daishaneise’s interview on Vimeo, go to <https://vimeo.com/105147333>.

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